

Granite Hills High School

Eagle Band & Guard Handbook 2013-2014

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Granite Hills High School Instrumental Music Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate students, in cooperation with the family and community, to have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to achieve their potential as socially responsible, lifelong learners in a diverse and changing society.

Music is an integral part of a comprehensive education. It enables all students to discover and develop their artistic potential through musical experiences in listening, performing, analyzing, and creating. Musical experiences enhance the student's quality of life through heightened aesthetic awareness, healthy social relationships and fun! Music incorporates understanding from all disciplines and leads to an improved self-concept, a broader cultural awareness, and a development of life-long skills.

How this applies to the Granite Hills High Student

The Granite Hills High School Instrumental Music Program provides an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for music and encourages the skills and discipline necessary for achieving musical success throughout a lifetime of experiences. Students learn the importance of a cooperative team effort while working with fellow members to accomplish the shared goals of the Band, Color Guard, and Drumline.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MEMBER

The Instrumental Music program at Granite Hills High School forms a *vital and important part of the total high school experience*. The main emphasis of the Band program is on musicianship and pride of accomplishment, followed closely by citizenship, tradition, morale, spirit, and loyalty. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OURSELVES: We owe ourselves the benefit of proper equipment and proper lessons. Whenever possible, you should avail yourselves of the *best possible quality instrument you can afford and endeavor to take private lessons*. Group lessons at school only teach at a moderate level. YOU have the primary responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL: The school district provides the necessary setting and facilities for our performances. We then, have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area. This means, you agree to *GIVE UP SOME OF YOUR FREE TIME FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF OTHERS. IT ALSO MEANS THAT IF THE SCHOOL OWNS YOUR INSTRUMENT, YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE PROPER CARE OF IT—INCLUDING REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT IF NECESSARY.*

RESPONSIBILITY TO MUSIC AS AN ART FORM: The performing arts have always been a vital part of humanity. YOU possess a very special talent. You now have the obligation and responsibility to use that talent for the betterment of your community and your country.

RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER: Getting along with each other in our complex society is indeed a difficult task all by itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Antisocial behavior will only breed the same from others. *Excessive talking, gossip, and bad manners, are all examples of antisocial behavior—treat others as you wish to be treated.*

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMPTNESS AND COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM: These are two essential facts vital to the success of the organization. Many times we are leaving the area to perform. It is obvious that if you are late, you are left behind. *YOU MUST arrange your schedule so you are able to honor your commitment to the performing groups.* Call times are the times that you are to be in your position, ready to perform. *Remember – to be early is to be on time – to be on time is to be late – to be late is inexcusable.*

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDANCE: *Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances are required.* Missing a performance is the equivalent of receiving an “F” on a major test in any other academic class and cannot be made up! Absences are permitted in the event **OF PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY. Extreme special circumstances for missing a performance should be discussed with Mr. McMeeken on an individual basis at least two weeks before a scheduled performance.** Failure to appear at a scheduled rehearsal will result in suspension from the performing group and a reduction of grade for that grading period. It is impossible to “make up” a performance, and the other members carry an extra burden because of someone else’s inconsideration. *As a student member of the GHHS Performing Arts Department, understand the **performance** culminates everything we work so hard at during the year. It is therefore, essential to your fine arts education that you experience the performance of your art.* In case of emergency or sudden illness before school rehearsal or performance, please call the music office and leave a message: (619) 593-5629

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: This is a serious problem throughout our society. We must be responsible for the costs of the cleaning uniforms, as well as transportation of equipment, and advisor salaries, just to name a few of our expenses. While we receive some financial support from school funds for a color guard stipend, an allotted amount of bus trips, and instrument repair, *it is not nearly enough to support the program to the extent that the community and the members themselves deem necessary. The band needs the support of parent volunteers, willing to help with fundraising, activities, and events. This support will help to make everyone’s band experience better.* The students have the opportunity to participate in several fundraising events each year. It is reasonable to request each member to try to participate equally in these projects or to donate an amount of money equal to the profit that would be generated had he or she participated.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUDIENCE

The audience members, as well as the musicians, are participants in every concert. When you participate in listening to the music, you will be taking an important part by sharing this experience with others in the audience and with the musicians on stage. Formal concerts are much different from rock concerts or sporting events, and require you to know some specific concert manners. It is the responsibility of All Granite Hills’ instrumental music students to demonstrate the proper concert etiquette to other students, friends and family, and the community at large. In order to make a concert enjoyable for everyone, here are some tips to remember:

- Enter the performance facility quietly.
- Please turn off a cell phone, or other device that makes noise inside the performance facility.
- Whistling, yelling, or screaming is not appropriate at any time before, during, or after a concert.

- If you must leave for any reason, wait until a piece is finished, and the audience is applauding. Also, return to your seat only between numbers.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Part of proper concert etiquette is appropriate performance attire. Wearing the proper attire shows the audience (an each other) that you take the performance seriously (which in turn will prompt the audience to take YOU seriously), and that you take pride in your achievements as a band. A concert is NOT the time to make a fashion statement; don't forget that you are performing as a member of a group, and drawing unnecessary attention to yourself detracts from the performance.

MEN

- White buttoned dress shirt with collar (no colored shirts underneath)
- Predominantly black or dark blue tie
- Black slacks
- Black dress shoes
- Dark socks

LADIES

- Black dress (no spaghetti straps)
- Black skirt with white blouse (dresses and skirts need to be knee length because the stage is 5' higher than the first row seats)
- Black slacks with white blouse
- Panty hose (dresses or skirts)
- Black, closed toe, comfortable dress shoes

It would be unfortunate to miss a performance due to improper dress.

GENERAL POLICIES FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

1. **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, And DANGEROUS OBJECTS:** All school guidelines are in effect for all Band, Color Guard, and Orchestra activities
2. **CANDY, GUM, SODA, GATORADE, SNACKS:** At **no time** will these items be permitted in the Band Room. **NO FOOD OR DRINK** is permitted on the busses unless students are specifically instructed differently.
3. **PLAYING YOUR INSTRUMENT IN THE STANDS:** All performances will be done in an orderly manner. You are NOT permitted to play another student's instrument. We play as a group or not at all!
4. **REFRESHMENT PERIOD:** Performers are usually permitted a portion of each event where they may obtain refreshments and use facilities for whatever is necessary. This period will be designated at each event. *There is to be no eating or drinking while in uniform.* WATER ONLY permitted.
5. **ASSEMBLING TO PERFORM:** The group will assemble together and move in an orderly manner (march when permitted) to the designated area.

6. We will **sit together** at football games. *No visitors in the area.* We are there to support the team.
7. Remember...that when you travel with the Band, **you represent the Band.** Anything you do, in or out of uniform, will reflect on the people you represent.
8. All music **must be returned or paid for.**
9. **Do not leave any instrument or music out in the Band Room or instrument room.** Be responsible for your things, ESPECIALLY if you are using a school instrument. If this becomes a problem, penalties may be put into place. We are not the only people using the Band Room. Put things away. YOU are responsible if anything you leave out is stolen.
10. **Heavy Make-Up, Jewelry, Facial Hair and Unnatural Hair Color** are not permitted for performances unless it is part of an approved costume. Appropriate grooming for performances is always expected and enforced.

TRAVEL PROCEDURES

1. **A MEDICAL RELEASE FORM/ATHLETIC CLEARANCE PACKET** must be signed and on file with the Band Director before any student may participate. Special health problems should also be noted so that adequate care can be provided when away from home. Please update the form during the year if necessary.
2. Adult supervision is provided on all Band, Color Guard, & Percussion performances and fundraisers. The Grossmont Union High School District is responsible for each student traveling with the group. Students traveling to an event with the music group must return in the same manner, with the following exception: **Students may return with their own parents or guardian if a note has been given to the Director forty eight hours prior to departure, relieving the District of all responsibility.**
3. **BOARDING AND EXITING BUSES:** Students will not board until instructed to do so. Students will remain on the bus and seated until instructed otherwise.
4. **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION:** Holding hands in full view is permitted on the bus only. Necking, hugging, kissing is **NOT** permitted. The Band staff will determine the boundaries of acceptable behavior.
5. **GENERAL CONDUCT:** No foul or abusive language or gestures are permitted. **YELLING IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME. THIS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ACCIDENTS.** All body parts must stay inside the bus. Moving from seat to seat is not permitted. Quiet talking is permitted. No screaming. No flash photography.
6. **UNIFORM/GUARD COSTUME CARE:** Jacket and trousers or costumes will be properly hung when not being worn. No shoes or hat in garment bag. Hats are placed in hat box.
7. All students will be assigned to a specific bus prior to departure. Switching of busses is **NOT** permitted. Return to your seat quickly so that attendance may be checked. We are usually in a hurry and this can be very time consuming. You are **required** to obey the driver and staff member or person in charge of the bus in a courteous manner.
8. No radios, CD-players, tape-players or personal pagers will be permitted on any trip. This equipment is not permitted on campus.

9. The Parent Volunteers/Chaperones/Booster organization assumes no responsibility for any personal items. It is suggested that valuables be left at home.

10. Quiet Zone rules will be in effect when traveling. Talking is allowed only while the bus is traveling on the freeway; students must be quiet when the bus is on surface streets.

11. Busses are to be clean and free of trash at the end of all trips.

12. Students are responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment, personal belongings, and equipment before and after all events.

13. At the conclusion of all events, students should arrange to be picked up at school **promptly at the designated pick-up time**. Pick-up times are listed in the itinerary that is sent home with students prior to the event.

GRADING PROCEDURES

A student's grade starts with the consideration that they are at least average, "C," when they walk through the door at the beginning of the school year. The student must show a desire to perform. Showing up for **ALL** rehearsals and performances **ON TIME** (without behavior or social problems), completing assignments, and receiving an average grade on playing tests, will maintain a student's "average" status. In other words, participation is worth a "C."

To receive a "B" or "excellent," the student must show genuine signs of effort for the "C" grade, along with the following:

- No absences
- Practices at home
- Has a good attitude and rehearsal habits
- Scores above average on playing and written tests—80% or above
- Volunteers for special projects
- Completes all performance-based tests on time

To receive an "A" or "superior," the student must not only display effort for the "C" and "B" grades, but in addition, must have evidence of accomplishments for his or her efforts. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to:

- Exhibits musical excellence through performance and tests
- Good attitude and willingness to help others in the pursuit of excellence
- Passes off all music on time!
- No absences
- Takes private lessons (optional but strongly recommended)

In the unlikely event the student is unable to maintain the "C" level work, the grade "D" or "poor" will be given, with the suggestion that improvement is necessary if the student wishes to remain in the program.

The grade "F" or "fail" will be given in situations where flagrant violations exist, including, but not limited to, the student who:

- Willingly causes injury to another member of the group
- Misses required rehearsals or performances without prior consent by the Directors
- Is pulled from a performance because of behavior or discipline problems
- Fails to pass or take required tests and assignments

It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed tests or assignments due to illness or excused absences in a timely fashion!

Final grades will be broken down by the following percentages:

- **Participation** (as explained above) **30%** counted:
Students receive 2 points every day for: setting up on time, playing/performing on instrument, behaving in accordance with the school and band room rules (for example: treating other students and teacher with respect, fixing attitude and/or behavior problems after first warning etc...see GHHS student handbook on conduct)
- **Class assignments and Practice reports 20%**
- **Proficiencies 20 %**
- **Performances 30%** *Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances are **required**. This is a co-curricular course as described by the district. Missing a performance is the equivalent of receiving an “F” on a major test in any other academic class and cannot be made up! Absences are permitted in the event **OF PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY**. **Extreme special circumstances for missing a performance should be discussed with Mr. McMeeken on an individual basis at least two weeks before a scheduled performance.** Failure to appear at a scheduled rehearsal will result in suspension from the performing group and a reduction of grade for that grading period. It is impossible to “make up” a performance, and the other members carry an extra burden because of someone else’s inconsideration. *As a student member of the GHHS Performing Arts Department, understand the **performance** culminates everything we work so hard at during the year. It is therefore, essential to your fine arts education that you experience the performance* of your art. In case of emergency or sudden illness before school rehearsal or performance, please call the music office and leave a message: (619) 593-5629*

Students receive participation points each day for:

- Being in the classroom before the tardy bell
- Attending class from the tardy bell to the dismissal bell
- Helping other students during rehearsals/practice
- Performing on instrument with the rest of the band/percussion/colorguard ensemble
- Having a positive attitude and behaving: not causing disruptions.

Music Memorization Testing Rubric (for Marching Band) Parades and Field:

"A" All notes memorized and the student performs musically with correct rhythms, articulation, and dynamics

"B" All notes but a few are memorized and the student performs most passages musically

"C" Most of the notes are memorized and there are some passages which are performed musically

"D" Sections of music are not memorized and little musicality is demonstrated. An attempt was made, and the student finished the piece.

"F" Student didn't try or gave up midway and/or very little is memorized

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

To achieve excellence, all groups must have efficient and productive rehearsals.

Instrumental Groups:

1. Students should have their instrument, music, and pencil ready and in their seat by the downbeat time set by the conductor. Strings should be tuned by this time.
2. Play only when told to and play only what is written.
3. Don't talk when the conductor is talking, even if it's about the music. If you must talk within your section about something musical, please let the conductor know that you need to do this.
4. Ask questions!
5. In marching band, remain at the position of attention and in your spot unless told to do otherwise.
6. No gum is allowed.
7. The Bathroom may be used when absolutely necessary. The director may require participation points for missed class time due to excessive bathroom trips (anything over 3 in a 6 week period is excessive).

Color Guard:

1. Students should wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. Students with long hair should keep scrunchies/pony tail holders in the flag room to hold their hair back with. Students should not wear jeans, open toed shoes or shoes without laces, or jewelry.
2. Students should bring to rehearsal a pencil/pen, equipment, water bottle (optional), small notebook (field), and drill charts (field).
3. No gum is allowed.
4. Don't talk during rehearsal, even it's about the work.
5. Ask questions!
6. Remain at the position of attention and in your spot unless you are told to do otherwise.
7. Girls/Boys that crack the light fixtures with tosses will pay to replace them.
8. The Bathroom may be used when absolutely necessary. The director may require participation points for missed class time due to excessive bathroom trips (anything over 3 in a 6 week period is excessive).

MUSIC ROOM RULES

1. **Do not leave anything lying around;** put it in the trash or in your locker. Anything left out will be put in the lost and found, thrown away, or confiscated.
2. Gum, food, drinks, I-pods, and hats **are not permitted** in the Band Room. See GHHS handbook.
3. No horseplay, rough-housing.
4. No throwing of objects.
5. No skateboarding, bike riding, etc. in the room.
6. Before and after all performances, (football games, concerts, etc.) **no one** other than Band and Color Guard students and chaperones excused by the director are allowed in the Band Room. **No exceptions!**
7. Ask a director *before* you use the telephone in the band room. **No Cell Phones Allowed**

SHEET MUSIC POLICY

Music costs substantial money to buy and duplicate. To keep the music budget in check, students must obey the following guidelines:

1. Students will maintain their own music folder (provided by the department to students at no expense), put their name (in pencil) on their own folder and music, and are responsible for putting it all away after each rehearsal in their locker.
2. If a student loses music, the student must have the Librarian, student aide, or Assistant Director, make replacement copies. These copies will cost the student \$1.00 per page, which will come directly out of that student's account in the form of a fine. For marching band music, students should talk to their Section Leader first.
3. The Librarian or Section Leaders may collect fines for improper use of music or music left out in the room at \$1.00 per infraction.
4. Copies are free the day music is passed out to make sure there is enough to go around, and the day it is turned in, so students can keep pieces they like without taking from the library.
*It is extremely important that **original music** is turned in when it is collected. Do not hoard music!*

INFORMATION ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS

PARENT GUIDELINES

1. **Student attendance is important**—don't allow students to miss school unnecessarily.
2. **Students should practice as often as possible.** Have your student play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
3. Your child is not Superman/Superwoman! **Avoid overloading them with too many extra activities.** Their performance will suffer overall.
4. **Become involved with your student's activities.** Your presence at our events means a lot to your child and the other students in our program. Volunteering is a great way to be involved. Extra help is always needed.
5. **Make positive and encouraging comments about performances.** Our attitudes reflect on our students, which in turn affects their performance.

